

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Page 9, lines 21-29 (last paragraph on page), please rewrite this paragraph as follows:

[[It]] The present invention comprises, in each case, a spinous drilling element 1 and a device 2 for detachable fixing of a handle 20, ~~that is not shown~~. In the present embodiment, the drilling element 1 ~~consists in each case of~~ includes a truncated cone 3 with a very small opening angle and a smooth circumferential surface. The instrument tip 4 is formed by a surface 6, which is designed to be rotationally symmetrical about an axis 5 of the truncated cone 3 and has a convex curvature. The reference character 7 indicates markings on the circumferential surface of the truncated cone 3, which indicates the distance to the tip 4 of the instrument.

Page 10, lines 1-3 (first paragraph on page), please rewrite this paragraph as follows:

In the case of the surgical instrument according to the present invention, the handle 20 is arranged at the angle 8 to the axis 5 of the truncated cone 3.